



TOWN OF CANTERBURY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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TO: Members of the Environment Committee  
FROM: Brian Sear, First Selectman, Town of Canterbury  
RE: H.B. No. 6313 An Act Concerning Raw Milk  
DATE: 2.9.09

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed "Act Concerning Raw Milk". I am First Selectman in Canterbury, Connecticut. I am opposed to implementation of this bill for several reasons.

Baldwin Brook Farm, located in Canterbury, has been producing raw milk for the past year and a half. This farm and its product, represent, on several levels, the highest ideals of our society. It is located on 75 beautiful acres. Its setting, with covered wooden bridge entrance, pastoral fields and stone walls, and livestock freely roaming, offers the quintessential snapshot of the small family farm. We are blessed to have it within our Town's borders.

The operation is spotless... run in a highly professional manner by a couple who moved here from the mid-west and chose Canterbury, Connecticut as the place to realize their dream of putting into action their mid-western love of dairy farming. They are the epitome of what we as a State should be attracting and promoting. People conducting business in the right way, for the right reasons, while benefiting their community.

The farm's raw milk, sold in glass bottles in a time-honored tradition, has attracted consumers from outside our local area, who make pilgrimages to buy the milk and then stay to enjoy the region. The milk has also become a mainstay for many in our local community, who are proud to consume locally-produced products and support local business.

Never having been of fan of milk in general, I tried Baldwin Brook Farm's raw milk, and now enjoy it on a regular basis. I consider it a true food, with many health benefits. Delving into the scientific data available on raw milk, I found that produced and packaged in the proper manner, it is extremely more easily and completely assimilated within the body than pasteurized milk, and contains nature's own antibodies. Some experts are even claiming, with solid support, that the body receives additional benefits from consuming products produced locally. My research also found not one instance of illness attributable to the consumption of Baldwin Brook Farm's milk.

I understand that there are 22 other farms throughout Connecticut producing raw milk in a safe and professional manner.

I am proud of Connecticut for supporting small family farms and local products. I am proud of Connecticut giving consumers a choice in choosing what products they consume. I beg you not to try to solve the problem of one producer which lost control of its processing practices, by hindering the capability of many others who are making a positive contribution to our society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.